

The Thoroughbred Daily News is delivered to your fax each morning by 5 a.m. For subscription information, please call (732) 747-8060.

THOROUGHBREDTM

D • A • I • L • Y N • E • W • S

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1999



\$2 Daily

N • E • W • S T O D A Y

NOKIA TOPS KEENELAND JANUARY DAY

FOUR Nokia, a four-year-old racing or broodmare prospect by Theatrical (Ire)--Cloudy Day Sunny (Buckaroo), topped the fourth day of the Keeneland January Horses of All Ages Sale in Lexington, Kentucky. She was sold by Eaton Sales, agent, for \$115,000 to Gerry O' Meara, agent. The filly is a half sister to graded stakes winner Siebe (Dahar) as well as stakes winners Puzar (Herat) and Dhaka (Icecapade). The top priced yearling was hip number 1352, a filly by Mr. Purple--Companionship (Princely Native). Clai Mar Farm paid \$100,000 for the half-sister to multiple graded stakes winner Crafty Friend (Crafty Prospector), who most recently finished third behind Silver Charm in Sunday's GII San Pasqual H. She was consigned by Fred Seitz/Brookdale Farm, agent. The final session starts today at 10:00 a.m.

CORRECTION:

In the Jan. 14 *TDN*, Hip number 1043, Fleety Belle (Ger) (Assert {Ire}), was reported to be not in foal. Sold by Nardelli Sales, agent, for \$122,000, she is in foal to Lure on Southern Hemisphere time. She was purchased by Cantium Bloodstock. Top three broodmares on page 2

TAIKI SHUTTLE HORSE OF THE YEAR IN JAPAN

Taiki Shuttle (Devil's Bag), who traveled to Europe to win the G1 Prix Jacques Le Marois in August, has been named Japan's 1998 Horse of the Year. The five-year-old repeated as the country's top sprinter last year, an award he won in 1997, and added top older horse honors to his résumé. In Japan, Taiki Shuttle won the G2-Jpn Keio Hai Spring Cup, the G1-Jpn Yasuda Kinen and the G1-Jpn Mile Championship before ending his season with a third-place finish in the G1 Sprinter S. El Condor Pasa (Kingmambo) was named Japan's top three-year-old colt of 1998. The Kentucky-bred ended his championship season with a win in the G1 Japan Cup. Two-year-old honors went to the colt **Admire Cozzene (Jpn)** (Cozzene) and the filly **Stinger (Jpn)** (Sunday Silence). **Phalaenopsis (Jpn)** (Brian's Time) was named best three-year-old filly while **Mejiro Dober (Jpn)** (Mejiro Ryan {Jpn}) was best older mare. **Mejiro Bright (Jpn)** (Mejiro Ryan {Jpn}) was named top homebred and **Wing Arrow (Jpn)** (Assatis) was the best dirt horse.

\$9 MILLION PURSE SUPPLEMENT FOR NEW JERSEY

The Board of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority has approved a plan which allocates approximately \$9 million to increase purses at its Thoroughbred and harness racing operations in 1999. The action will allow for an increase of about \$4.5 million in purses to the Meadowlands harness meet, \$3 million to Monmouth Park's Thoroughbred meet and \$1 million to the Meadowlands' fall Thoroughbred meet. The new money will be used to add approximately \$40,000 to daily purses at Monmouth Park, bringing total distribution to \$265,000 per day. Monmouth officials also confirmed yesterday that they will add the GI United Nations H., formerly run at Atlantic City, and the GII Jersey Derby, previously contested at Garden State Park, to the 1999 stakes schedule. "We need to strive to improve our product position relative to our competition, many of which have been able to make similar increases with non-racing related income," explained Bruce Garland, senior vice president of racing for the NJSEA. "All three of our meets have strong current niches which we want to continue to expand. This plan accomplishes that goal." Total purse distribution at the Authority's three race meets exceeded \$70 million in 1998. All three meets ended their 1998 seasons with record overnight purse distribution levels, which helped increase wagering and attendance. "More purse money is going to mean an increased quality of our product," commented Robert Kulina, vice president and general manager of Monmouth Park and NJSEA Thoroughbred operations. "This should help lead to increased wagering and added acceptance nationwide of our racing."



KEENELAND JANUARY STATISTICS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1999

KEENELAND.

SESSION TOTALS

1999

No. Sold	253
Gross	\$4,002,700
Average	\$15,821
Median	\$9,000

CUMULATIVE TOTALS

1999

No. Sold	1,005
Gross	\$40,053,300
Average	\$39,854
Median	\$14,500

STAKES CLOSINGS

TOMORROW, SATURDAY, JANUARY 16:
TRIPLE CROWN NOMINATIONS (600)





Keeneland results cont.

TOP THREE BROODMARES

Hip#	Name	Covering Stallion	Price
1043	NOKIA	Racing/B'mare Prospect	\$115,000
4yo, Theatrical (Ire)--Cloudy Day Sunny (Buckaroo) Consigned by Eaton Sales, agent Purchased by Gerry O'Meara, agent			
809	RADIOACTIVITY	Glitterman	\$110,000
8yo, Dixieland Band--Geiger Countess (Mr. Prospector) Consigned by Eaton Sales, agent Purchased by McKee Stables Inc.			
984	KATES DELIMMA	Judge T C	\$92,000
9yo, Tank's Prospect--K.J. Ma Kate (Chieftain) Consigned by Denali Stud (Craig Bandoroff), Agent XVIII Purchased by Nursery Place			

◆ PREVIEW ◆

Saturday, Santa Anita:

SAN FERNANDO BREEDERS' CUP S.-GII, \$300,000, 4yo, 8 1/2f

The field, in order of the draw, is as follows: **Event of the Year** (Seattle Slew), 122; **Old Topper** (Gilded Time), 118; **Hanuman Highway (Ire)** (Alzao), 116; **Artax** (Marquetry), 120; **Run Man Run** (Theatrical {Ire}), 120; **Yarrow Brae** (Deputy Minister), 120; **Dixie Dot Com** (Dixie Brass), 116; **Mail Coach (Chi)** (Hussonet), 116.

Saturday, Santa Anita:

SAN GORGONIO H.-GII, \$150,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 9fT

The field of six will line up in the following order: **Verinha (Brz)** (Baronius {Brz}), 114; **Palme d'Or (Ire)** (Sadler's Wells), 113; **Sonja's Faith (Ire)** (Sharp Victor), 118; **Champagne Royal** (Jebbar), 112; **See You Soon (Fr)** (Kaldoun {Fr}), 117; **India Divina (Chi)** (Roy), 114.

© Copyright Thoroughbred Daily News.

This newspaper may not be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without prior written permission of the copyright owner, MediaVista. Information as to the American races, race results and earnings was obtained from results charts published in Daily Racing Form and utilized herewith with the permission of the copyright owner, Daily Racing Form.

◆ FLORIDA ◆

Yesterday's Results:

8th-GPX, \$44,000, Alw, 4/up, 1 1/16m, 1:43 3/5, ft.

1--**EARLY WARNING**, 119, c, 4, Summer Squall--Vid Kid (MSW, \$289,556), by Pleasant Colony.

O-Dogwood Stable; B-Kritboonyayon Krieng (KY);

T-T Pletcher. Lifetime Record: GSW, 16-5-3-1, \$212,775.

2--**Truluck**, 115, c, 4, Conquistador Cielo--Michelle Mon Amour, by Best Turn.

3--**Dancing Guy**, 115, c, 4, Robyn Dancer--Dancing Myrrh, by Gold and Myrrh.

Margins: 4HF, 1, 1. Odds: 2.30, 0.90, 7.30.

Winner of the GIII Discovery H. at Aqueduct Oct. 28, Early Warning ended his '98 campaign with fourth-place finishes in the 10-furlong Congressional H. at Laurel Nov. 29 and the 9.5-furlong GIII Queens County H. over the Big A winter track Dec. 12. Shortening up an eighth and dropping back to the allowance ranks for his first start of the new year, the bay shadowed the front-runners early, took a short lead after six furlongs and sprinted clear in the stretch for a decisive score.

3rd-GPX, \$38,000, Alw, 4yo/up, f/m, a1 1/16mT, 1:43 4/5, fm.

CIRCUS CHARMER (f, 4, Manila--Al's Helen {GSW, \$220,281}, by Distinctive) came into this event with three wins in five starts on turf and was most recently a fast-closing fourth in the Calder Oaks Oct. 24. The 5-2 shot was close to the pace throughout, challenged for the lead on the backstretch, held a clear margin on the turn and won by 5 1/2 easy lengths. Lifetime Record: 12-5-0-0, \$105,835.

O-Team Valor. B-Kinsman Farm (KY). T-George J Getz.

10th-GPX, \$36,000, Alw, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m, 1:46, ft.

TIMELY BROAD (m, 5, Broad Brush--Timely Times, by Hostage) came back after a seven-month layoff to take an allowance race at Delaware Park May 19, but was winless in seven subsequent starts on the season, most recently running eighth in the GIII Falls City H. at Churchill Downs Nov. 26. Looking to get back on the winning track in her '99 debut, the 1/2 to From Time to Time (Rahy), SW, \$164,735, was without early foot, but kicked it into gear late and got up for a neck victory at 5-1. Lifetime Record: SW, 25-4-6-4, \$243,750.

O-Cunningham T A. B-Charles Nuckols, Jr. & Sons (KY). T-Michael P Petro.



PARIS, KY
(606) 233-4252
FAX (606) 987-0008

**Grade 1 Winner
Ordway**

Salt Lake - Priceless Countess, by Vaguely Noble
Female-Line Descendant of La Troienne



Florida Report cont.

9th-GPX, \$34,000, Alw, 4yo/up, 7f, 1:25, ft. SAVVY RUNNER (c, 4, World Appeal--For My Alyse, by Talc), second last out in a Dec. 27 allowance at Calder, hadn't won a race in 11 starts since leaving Gulfstream last year after a Mar. 7 allowance victory. Dismissed at 14-1, he came three wide into the stretch, was bumped through the drive, but got up for a half-length win. Lifetime Record: SP, 17-3-4-3, \$90,248.

O-R W Patten. B-Land Trust & Warnerton Farm (FL). T-Michael P Depaulo.

Gulfstream Park Worktab:

G1 Hopeful S. winner **Lucky Roberto (Belong to Me)** moved closer to his sophomore debut with a four-furlong breeze in :48 3/5 yesterday at Gulfstream Park. Trainer Frank Alexander said, "We'll look for an allowance race in February and then maybe the (Mar. 13 GIII) Swale S."

Alexander's other top three-year-old, GII Saratoga Special runner-up **Silk Broker (Pentelicus)**, worked five furlongs handily in 1:00 4/5. The winner of a Jan. 3 Gulfstream allowance sprint, he will go next in the GII Hutcheson Jan. 30.

◆ **E A S T** ◆

Yesterday's Results:

7th-LRL, \$22,500, Alw, 3yo, f, 1 1/16m, 1:48 3/5, gd. SKIPPING AROUND (f, 3, Skip Trial--Royal Veagess {MSW}, by Rock Royalty) won her debut at Philadelphia Park Nov. 30 before finishing second at Laurel last time out Dec. 26. Trying two turns for the first time, the 6-5 favorite made her move from just off the pace while three wide turning for home and drew away to score by 1 3/4 lengths. Lifetime Record: 3-2-1-0, \$27,150.

O/B-Arthur I Appleton (FL). T-Robert W Camac.

TELL IT TO THE TDN...

Want to send a "Letter to the Editor" of the *Thoroughbred Daily News*? Our address is 811 River Rd., Fair Haven, NJ, 07704; or send a fax to: (732) 747-8955; or an e-mail to: Tbrednews@AOL.com.

◆ **N E W Y O R K** ◆

Aqueduct Cancels:

Aqueduct was forced to cancel their Thursday card due to inclement weather.

◆ **M I D W E S T** ◆

Churchill Acquires Interest in Video Services Company:

Churchill Downs Inc. and Charlson Industries Inc. announced yesterday the formation of Charlson Broadcast Technologies LLC. The new company, in which Churchill Downs will hold a 60-percent share, will provide simulcast graphic software and video services to racetracks and off-track betting facilities. Churchill anticipates its total investment--including purchase price, capital commitments and contingent payments--will not exceed \$8 million.

◆ **S O . C A L I F O R N I A** ◆

Southern California Work Tab:

Manistique (Unbridled) breezed an easy three furlongs in :38 1/5 at Santa Anita Thursday. The filly starts next in Sunday's GII El Encino S...**Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies** winner **Siverbulletday (Silver Deputy)** worked five furlongs in 1:00 2/5 yesterday...**Yes It's True (Is It True)** went five furlongs in 1:01 2/5 in preparation for the Feb. 6 GII San Vicente S...**Breeders' Cup Turf** third **Dushyantor (Sadler's Wells)** worked five furlongs in 1:03 2/5 and is possible for the GII San Luis Obispo H. Feb. 15.

Seeking the Pearl to U.S.

Seeking the Pearl (Seeking the Gold), a multiple graded-stakes winner in Japan and victoress of France's G1 Prix Maurice de Gheest, is scheduled to arrive in the U.S. next Tuesday. The five-year-old Virginia-bred will be quarantined at Hollywood Park before shipping to Paddy Gallagher's barn at Santa Anita Jan. 21. She could make her American bow in the Jan. 23 GI Santa Monica H.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY...

January 15, 1969...Barbara Jo Rubin was named to ride in a race at Tropical Park. Thirteen male riders subsequently boycotted the race rather than compete against a female, and were fined \$100 each.

Topping the Keeneland January Sale on Wednesday at \$207,000 was a 4-year-old filly by

LOST CODE \$7,500 LF

WORLD CLASS. WORLD WIDE.



606.846.5214 www.vinery.net



Yesterday's Results:

2nd-SAX, \$58,290, Alw, 4yo/up, f/m, a6 1/2fT, 1:14 2/5, fm.

1--EUBEE (FR), 117, m, 5, Common Grounds--Fextal, by Alleged. O-Flaxman Holdings; B-S Niarchos (Fr); T-R Frankel. Lifetime Record: SP-Fr, 9-4-2-1, \$114,322.

2--Desert Lady (Ire), 118, f, 4, Danehill--Hooray Lady, by Ahonoora.

3--La Madame (Ch), 116, f, 4, Mocito Fogoso (Chi)--Media Onda (Chi), by Mediatore (Chi).

Margins: HF, 3/4, 1HF. Odds: 2.20, 1.80, 8.20.

Unraced at two, Eubee made her first six starts in her native France, winning two races restricted to French-breds and finishing third in the Listed Prix La Sorellina as a three-year-old. Shipped to America for her four-year-old season, she made just two starts, winning her debut March 15 at Santa Anita and finishing second nine months later in a Dec. 31 allowance, both at a mile. Sent away the second choice here, she raced third down the hill, slipped through on the inside to take a short lead in midstretch and held off the closing kick of the favorite for the win.

7th-SAX, \$54,000, Alw, 3yo, f, 1m, 1:37, ft.

TOUT CHARMANT (f, 3, Slewvescent--Charm a Gendarme {GSW, \$224,305}, by Batonnier) was second at Bay Meadows twice before breaking her maiden sprinting at Hollywood in her third start Nov. 21. The 9-2 third choice rated behind quick early splits, moved up on the outside around the far turn and rolled home to a two-length score. Lifetime Record: 4-2-2-0, \$60,200. O-Walter Family Trust. B-The Robert H Walter Family Trust (KY). T-Bob Baffert.

◆ FOREIGN ◆

SO. HEMISPHERE WINNERS BY U.S. SIRES:

Love Of Georgia (Aus), f, 2, Dehere--Pick 'N' Choose (NZ), by Seattle Dancer. Moonee Valley (Melbourne), 1-14, Night Racing Loyalty Card H., 2yo, f, \$9,945 to winner. B-Tolcost Pty Ltd; T-Lee Freedman.

Dance Play (NZ), m, 4, Dance Floor--Nuala Girl (NZ), by Taipan (Ire). Wyong (New South Wales), 1-14, Linda Brown & Noel Cobby Appreciation H., 3yo/up, 6f 165yT, \$3,182 to winner. B-Trelawney Stud Ltd; T-Colin Harwood. *1/2 to Grand Jette (NZ) (Spectacular Love), GSW-NZ.

AMERICAN-BRED WINNER IN ENGLAND:

Mukarrab, g, 5, Dayjur--Mahaasin (NZ) (G1SW-Aus), by Biscay (Aus). Lingfield, 1-14, Apple A Day H., 3yo/up, 6f (AWT), \$4,510 to winner. O-Ian Armitage; B-Shadwell Farm Inc; T-David Chapman.

AMERICAN-BRED WINNER IN DUBAI:

Mashhaer, h, 5, Nureyev--Life's Magic (Ch. 3yo filly, Ch. older mare, MGISW, \$2,255,218), by Cox's Ridge. Nad Al Sheba, 1-14, 4yo/up, 9f, 1:50.95. O-Mohammed Saeed Bin Khadiah; B-Shadwell Estate Co Ltd (Ky); T-E Charpy. *Tropicool (Carr de Naskra) finished second.

Cumani Fined for Drug Violation:

Trainer Luca Cumani was yesterday fined a total of £750 (\$1,242) by the Jockey Club yesterday after **Sharera (Ire) (Kahyasi {GB})** was found to have run on the prohibited substances phenylbutazone and oxyphenbutazone when second in the James Levett H. at Newmarket Oct. 2, and because he had failed to keep records of treatment for **Zomaradah (GB) (Deploy {GB})**. The Jockey Club accepted Cumani's explanation that when phenylbutazone had been given to Zomaradah Oct. 1 and 2, there was cross-contamination of Sharera who was disqualified from the race.

Magic Millions Sale Wrap-Up:

Tuesday's final session of the 1999 Magic Millions Yearling Sales continued the series' upward trend with a 16-percent increase on last year. Closing day saw sales of more than AUS\$1.7 million (\$1,040,392) for 140 yearlings with an average price of AUS\$12,259 (\$7,502). Top price of AUS\$65,000 (\$39,877) was bid for a Sir Laurence (NZ) colt. Trainer Gai Waterhouse was leading buyer at the sale overall with 16 lots for an outlay of AUS\$1,066,000 (\$653,987).

GIVE THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON FAXING

PLEASE CALL 732-747-8060 TO SEND A FRIEND THE THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS

3 MONTHS: \$182

6 MONTHS: \$355

1 YEAR: \$699

ALL PRICES ARE FOR THE U.S., CANADA & ENGLAND ONLY.

CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL AND E-MAIL RATES.

ASHFORD STUD

Aisling Cross, Dermot Ryan or Dr. Barry Simon
Tel: 606-873-7088. Fax: 606-879-5756.

A GRADE 1 WINNER BY SIRE OF SIRES DEPUTY MINISTER

VICTORY SPEECH

By the sire of **DEHERE, SALT LAKE, SILVER DEPUTY**, etc.
From the family of Champion sire **BE MY GUEST**.



◆ **INDUSTRY INFO** ◆

Jockey Club Posts Available Names on Website:

With a little over two weeks to go before the Feb. 1 deadline to name foals of 1997, The Jockey Club has published a list of 84,775 Thoroughbred names recently released from active use on its website, located at www.jockeyclub.com. "The convenience of being able to scan a list of recently freed up names was impossible last year," said Roger Shook, Jockey Club vice president of registration services, "but our aggressive pursuit of new technology now lets us isolate the list of names recently made available."

**B • R • E • E • D • E • R • S
E D I T I O N**

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

9th-FGX, \$36,000, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:44, ft. MASTER PEPPE (c, 4, Giuseppe--Scottish Madam, by Duns Scotus) Lifetime Record: MSW, 15-6-3-1, \$182,594. O/B-Albert E Pusch (LA). T-Donald Cormier.

7th-GGX, \$32,800, 4yo/up, 6f, 1:09 4/5, ft. BROWN BUFFALO (c, 4, Mountain Cat--Clickety Click {SW}, by Sovereign Dancer) Lifetime Record: 4-2-1-0, \$38,190. O-Bonde, Cox, Lebherz, Et Al. B-Larry Millison Inc (KY). T-Jeff Bonde.

7th-FGX, \$31,500, 4yo/up, 5 1/2f, 1:04 2/5, ft. EMOTIONAL POWER (g, 4, Irish Open--Emotional Storm, by Storm Bird) Lifetime Record: 20-6-0-6, \$101,785. O-James E Nelson. B-Brereton C. Jones (KY). T-Steven M Asmussen.

8th-LRL, \$27,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/8m, 1:54 2/5, gd. SUDDEN (f, 4, Strike the Gold--Nautical Cat, by Storm Cat) Lifetime Record: 23-4-5-3, \$104,736. O-Delehanty Farm. B-White Cross Farm (KY). T-Richard W Small.

A # will distinguish first-time stakes-winners, a @ will indicate first-time graded stakes-winners, a + will denote winners who are first-time starters, an (S) will be used for state-bred races, a (C) will be used for maiden-claiming races and an (R) will be used for other restricted races.

4th-TPX, \$24,700, 4yo/up, 1m, 1:39, ft. MAXMILIANS SPECTER (h, 5, Maximilian--Easy But Tricky, by Sovereign Dancer) Lifetime Record: 24-8-3-3, \$57,041. O/T-Jerry L Balo. B-W McKinney (Ky).

4th-LRL, \$24,300, 4yo/up, 6f, 1:12 3/5, gd. DOUGIE'S ECHO (g, 4, Eastern Echo--Silver Spool {SW, \$136,050}, by Strike Gold) Lifetime Record: 6-4-2-0, \$28,579. O-Louis J Ulman. B-Respite Farm Inc (KY). T-Jeff C Runco.

MAIDEN WINNERS:

Coast Is Clear, f, 3, Cahill Road--Mink Alert, by Greinton (GB). SAX, 1-14, (C), 6f, 1:11. B-Crescent Hill Farm, Dr W A Rood & P Costello (Ky). *\$6,000 wlng '96 KEENOV; \$20,000 yrl '97 KEESEP.

Joy To Me And You, c, 3, Cryptoclearance--I Love the Blues, by Cure the Blues. SAX, (C), 1-14, 1m, 1:38 1/5. B-Gary Garber (Ky). *1/2 to Code Love (Lost Code), MSW & GSP, \$115,084.

Shamrock Storm, g, 3, Future Storm--Tura Lura Lura (MSP), by Yrrah Jr.. GPX, 1-14, (C), 1 1/16m, 1:48 1/5. B-Brian K Brintle & Suzanna Brintle (Fl). *\$29,000 yrl '97 OBSAUG.

Good Night, g, 3, Lord At War (Arg)--Evening's Over (MSW), by Stop the Music. FGX, 1-14, a1 1/16mT, 1:47. B-Jeffrey B & Mary W Keckley (Ky). *\$60,000 yrl '97 KEESEP.

He's for Real, g, 4, Corwyn Bay (Ire)--Real Precious, by Torsion. SAX, (C), 1-14, 6f, 1:11. B-Old English Rancho & James Mamakos (Ca). *SP.

Clearly a Devil, f, 4, Cryptoclearance--Devil's Mistress, by Devil's Bag. SAX, 1-14, (C), 7f, 1:23 1/5. B-Andrea Singer Pollock Revocable Trust (Ky).

Wo Saloot, f, 4, Salutely--Woven Canvas, by Nostrum. LRL, 1-14, 7f, 1:28 2/5. B-Mea Culpa Stables, Inc (Md).

Sky Ship, c, 4, Sky Classic--Courtship, by Blushing Groom (Fr). GPX, 1-14, (C), 1 1/16m, 1:48. B-Pin Oak Stud, Inc (Ky). *\$12,500 2yo 1997 FTKAPR.

MOVING ???

**For just a day or forever...
Call us with your new fax number.
(732) 747-8060**



ADENA SPRINGS
Kentucky (606) 873-0948
Inquiries to Jack Brothers
Toll Free 1 (877) 945-2020

**Grade I Breeders' Cup Classic Winner in Track Record Time!
Earnings \$2,988,325.**

ALPHABET SOUP

Cozzene-Illiterate, by Arts and Letters Letter perfect in so many ways!



WRITERS UP

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: TVG SET TO LAUNCH

By Bill Finley

The sport's dream--a 24-hour cable station dedicated solely to racing and offering interactive wagering--is very close to a reality. Television Games Network is set to launch by mid-1999 and it is promising to do so with a big splash. This will not be your father's racing program.

At the outset, the nuts and bolts of TVG's programming will consist of two major tracks going at once, with four-to-six races being shown per hour. Studio hosts will quarterback the action, throwing it back and forth to on-track analysts and handicappers. The programming day will continue with racing from Midwest and West Coast tracks, followed by nighttime fare which can include harness, quarter horse and greyhound racing. The off hours will be filled by racing from foreign tracks. Smaller circuits will eventually be carried on TVG spinoffs--TVG-2, TVG-3, etc.

Eventually, the racing fan will be able to watch and wager on virtually any track in the country from his or her home. The horseplayer can wager through an 800 number, on the Internet or choose to make bets through an interactive gizmo similar to the cable box that already sits atop most everyone's TV sets. You definitely cannot bet from within states (e.g. Utah, Alaska) that do not allow pari-mutuel betting, you definitely can bet from states (e.g. New York, Pennsylvania) that allow phone betting and you may or may not be able to wager from states (e.g. Florida, Delaware) that allow pari-mutuel gambling but do not have phone betting. TVG's lawyers are still sifting through individual state laws.

Like any new cable station, it won't be available everywhere overnight. That will take time. By the launch date, TVG should be available on small dish satellite systems such as DirectTV.

But it's not just what you show, but how you show it. That, at least, is the TVG philosophy.

"The key is not to make it something for people who are already betting on racing, but something that will appeal to new fans," said TVG's executive producer Tony Allevato. "We have to make it entertaining and give people a rooting interest in the outcome, like they do in other sports. The difference is they can bet

here on their rooting interests. Our goal is to turn these people, somewhere down the road, into serious fans."

Do racing telecasts, as we know them, achieve that goal? Probably not. Allevato and his staff are hoping to present racing in a different light, as something that is fun, hip and chock full of enticing human interest stories. Features on horses, jockeys and trainers performing that day will be interspersed with the live telecasts, replays and paddock banter. For the uninitiated, there will be not only handicappers offering selections but "how-to" instructional segments.

"I don't want two guys behind a desk with *Racing Forms* saying, 'Now let's go to the seventh at Aqueduct,'" Allevato said. "If we do that, we are only appealing to the serious fan, people who are already betting. For our staff, we're going after young, good-looking people, talented new and fresh faces."

According to TVG's vice president of business affairs, Tom Aronson, Fox Sports is close to signing on to do the production work for TVG. It's all part of the family. United Video Satellite Group is the corporate parent of ODS Technologies and Television Games Network. News Corp. owns 44 percent of United Video, and Fox Sports is the sports entertainment arm of News Corp. Cable giant TCI is also involved, which means immediate access to major cable carriers. These are good friends to have.

TVG has signed exclusive agreements with most of the major racetracks in the country, including the New York Racing Association, Hollywood, Churchill, Keeneland, Santa Anita, Gulfstream and the Maryland Jockey Club. The Meadowlands and Monmouth are among the few significant holdouts.

With deep pockets, a creative entertainment package and most of the major tracks in the country signed on, can TVG put racing over the hump? The TVG team thinks that it will.

"I think this has the potential to put racing back on the same level as the other major sports as far as the live game goes," Aronson said. "Our ultimate moment of success will be when the people we've attracted in the homes start showing up at the racetrack. It's then that we'll know we've done our jobs."

With only a smattering of racing now available on TV, the public has hadn't much of a chance to fall in love with the sport. TVG wants to change that, hoping that America will tune in and turn on.

Bill Finley is a sportswriter for the New York Daily News.



HOPEWELL

Midway, KY (606) 873-9600

Winner of 7 consecutive graded stakes (5 Grade I) in 1998

SKIP AWAY